

5    **ABSTRACT**

          The present invention is directed to camera mounting systems and, in particular, a universal camera mount apparatus incorporating a security device for use in theft prevention. The apparatus comprises an electronic anti-theft assembly in combination with a universally mountable mounting member. The  
10    universally mountable mounting member may then be secured to a camera by a fastener threaded into the camera's pre-existing tripod mount hole, for monitoring by the security device. As the majority of cameras manufactured incorporate tripod mounting holes, the mounting member may be used with the majority of today's cameras, regardless of shape, by providing alternative apertures for  
15    mounting in at least two intersecting directions of orientation.

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